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## **Breviate of the Meeting of the Protocol Committee held on 7<sup>th</sup> January 2021**

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In accordance with Standing Orders of the City Council, the Breviate of the Meeting of the Protocol Committee held 7<sup>th</sup> January 2021 is submitted herewith.

### **1) International Relations - Twinning Policy**

Grainne Kelly provided a report on the background of the Twinning Programme and updated the Members on the recent developments with the various cities that the City Council has formal twinning arrangements with including Barcelona, Beijing, San Jose and Liverpool. She informed the committee that the Local Government Act 2001 sets out the legislative framework for twinning and confirmed that it was a reserved function of the Council.

The Members thanked Grainne for her report and for her contribution to the twinning project over the years. They noted that many productive relationships had been developed as a result of twinning and that this collaboration had brought cultural and economic benefits to Dublin City. However, Members expressed the view that the twinning project needed to be reinvigorated to ensure these relationships were maintained and built upon and for twinning to continue to deliver positive outcomes for Dublin.

Cllr. Dermot Lacey and Cllr. Deirdre Heney were of the view the direction of the Twinning Programme should fall within the remit of the Protocol Committee. The Manager informed Members that currently responsibility for Twinning rests with the Economic Development and Enterprise SPC.

**Order: It was agreed that the Chair of the Protocol Committee and the Chair of the Economic Development and Enterprise SPC would meet with Grainne Kelly to discuss how best to develop the Twinning Programme and move it forward. The Chair will report back to the Committee in due course.**

### **2) Accessibility Works at the Mansion House**

The Manager informed Members that wheelchair accessibility to the Mansion House has proved problematic since the removal of the ramp several years ago. The installation of the lift helped to improve the situation, however it was not a satisfactory resolution to the problem due to limitations in terms of capacity and operating time.

A new solution involving providing access through the current garden has been identified. Due to the significant impact of the proposed works it will involve multiple Departments and require consultation across several Committees. To date a capital budget has been

assigned, a Design Team appointed and a Steering Group setup. It is envisaged that a presentation on the proposed works will be made to the Protocol Committee at its next meeting.

**Order: Noted**

### **3) Standing Orders Working Group**

**Order: It was agreed that the Standing Orders Working Group would meet on a more regular basis to review how motions are dealt with at City Council meetings. The Chair asked members to revert to their groups on the matter and to forward any proposals or suggestions to the Working Group.**

### **4) Information Technology Working Group**

The Manager informed Members that due to a delay in the awarding of the contract for the development of the new CRM System, the meeting of the IT Working Group has been rescheduled to 25<sup>th</sup> January. She also confirmed that the terms of reference for the group are draft and can be amended.

**Order: It was agreed that the Working Group would be the point of contact between the elected members and the Transformation Unit on the development of the Councillor portal. Ruth Dowling will write to Group Leaders regarding membership of the Working Group with a view to bringing on board a more diverse range of views and technical abilities.**

**Councillor Anne Feeney**  
**Chairperson**  
**Thursday 7 January 2021**

#### **Attendance:**

#### **Members:**

Anne Feeney  
Racheal Batten  
Anthony Connaghan  
Donna Cooney  
Joe Costello  
Deirdre Heney  
Dermot Lacey  
Darcy Lonergan  
Naoise Ó Muirí  
Cat O'Driscoll  
Michael Pidgeon  
Lord Mayor Hazel Chu

#### **Officers:**

Ruth Dowling  
Michael Gallagher  
Grainne Kelly  
Deirdre Ní Raghallaigh